

REMARKS

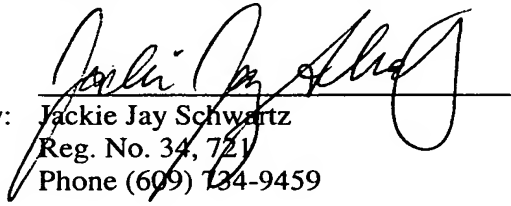
Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application with claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11 and 12 being amended and claims 16 and 17 being added by this amendment.

Early and favorable examination of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the claims as amended are patentable over the references cited and the prior art made of record during prosecution of the PCT application. Thus, Applicants respectfully requests early and favorable examination on the merits of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version of the claims with markings to show changes made

1. (Amended) An outdoor (24) unit for a satellite television ground system (10) comprising:

downlink circuitry operative to receive first and second satellite television signals, from first and second satellites, process the first and second satellite television signals, and provide the processed first and second satellite television signals to an indoor unit (30) of the satellite television ground system (34,36); and

uplink circuitry operative to receive an uplink signal from the indoor (30), and process the received uplink signal, and provide the processed uplink signal to a satellite transmitting antenna when the downlink circuitry is frequency [signal] locked to signals from [with] one of the first or [and] second satellites (42).

2. (Amended) The outdoor unit (24) of claim 1, wherein the uplink circuitry (42) is further operative to receive an uplink control signal indicating a frequency [signal] locked condition to signals from [with] one of the first or [and] second satellites from the indoor unit (30).

4. (Amended) The outdoor unit (24) of claim 3, wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from one of the first or [and] second satellite television signals.

5. (Amended) The outdoor unit (24), wherein the uplink oscillator signal is derived from frequency conversion error data from one of the first or [and] second satellite television signals.

6. (Amended) An outdoor unit (24) for a satellite television ground system (10) comprising:

means for receiving first and second satellite television signals from first and second satellites (16,18);

means for processing the first and second satellite television signals (34,36);

means for providing the processed first and second satellite television signals to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system (38);

means for receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit (42);

means for processing the received uplink signal (90, 99); and

means for providing the processed uplink signal to a satellite transmitting antenna when the downlink circuitry is frequency [signal] locked to signals from [with] one of the first or [and] second satellites.

7. (Amended) The outdoor unit (24) of claim 6, further comprising:

means for receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency [signal] locked condition to signals from [with] one of the first or [and] second satellites from the indoor unit (42).

11. (Amended) In an outdoor unit (24) of a satellite television ground system (10), a method of providing an uplink communication with a television broadcasting satellite comprising the steps of:

receiving first and second satellite television signals from first and second satellites (16,18);

processing the first and second satellite television signals (34,36);

providing the processed first and second satellite television signals to an indoor unit of the satellite television ground system (32,38);

receiving an uplink signal from the indoor unit;

processing the received uplink signal (42); and

providing the processed uplink signal to a satellite transmitting antenna when the downlink circuitry is frequency [signal] locked [with] to signals from one of the first or [and] second satellites (42).

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

receiving an uplink control signal indicating a frequency [signal] locked condition to signals from [with] one of the first or [and] second satellites from the indoor unit.

Please add new claims 16 and 17 as follows:

--16. (New) The outdoor unit of claim 7, wherein the presence or the uplink data signal or uplink oscillator signal is required to enable the transmitter section of the outdoor unit.

17. (Amended) *The method of claim 11 in which both an uplink oscillator signal and an uplink data signal indicating successful reception of an encoded data segment is required to enable the transmitter of the outdoor unit.--*

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5/21/02

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